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c. 1970/10/00

SUMMARY OF THE INDOCHINA PACKAGE

The speech, as it now stands, would contain five main elements:

1. Ceasefire -- We would call for immediate negotiations on a standstill ceasefire throughout Indochina. Although we would cite no pre-conditions, we would indicate that in our view an effective ceasefire would contain the following aspects:

-- thorough and effective international supervision;

-- no increase in outside forces in the Indochina states;

-- ceassation of all types of violence from bombing/artillery to terrorism;

-- it would be part of a general move to reach a settlement and end the war;

-- it would apply throughout Indochina.

2. Indochina Conference -- Recognizing that the conflicts in the Indochina states are indivisible, we would propose a broader international forum including all interested parties and states.

-- However, we would not try to get into detailed terms of reference or invitees in the speech, leaving this to negotiations.

-- We would make clear that Paris would continue to remain our principal negotiating forum unless and until a broader conference can be arranged.

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3. Principle of Withdrawal -- We would reaffirm our willingness to withdraw all U.S. forces from Vietnam, while continuing to make it clear that we expect North Vietnamese withdrawals as well.

-- We would indicate our flexibility on a timetable and our willingness to make our withdrawal plans more concrete in the framework of the May 14, 1969, speech and the new proposals that we were now announcing.

4. Political Settlement -- The speech would not get into this question in any detail but would reaffirm our fundamental objective of reaching a political settlement that meets the aspirations of all South Vietnamese.

-- We would state again the three basic principles that were outlined in the President's April 20 speech, i.e., we seek a political settlement that assures the South Vietnamese self-determination without outside interference; a fair political solution should reflect the existing relationship of political forces; and we are willing to abide by the outcome of the process agreed upon.

5. Prisoners of War.-- We would call for the immediate and unconditional release of all prisoners of war held by both sides, as well as innocent civilians and journalists that have been captured.

-- This would not be dependent on a ceasefire.

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